AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 8, 9, and 14 have been amended herein. All claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended herein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for use on a computer having a graphical operating environment, comprising:

providing a collection of items within a container, the container having an outer appearance;

enumerating the items that exist within the container;

determining whether a graphical preview can be generated for each enumerated item;

generating a list of items for which a graphical preview can be generated;

selecting, from the generated list, a desired number of items to display on the outer appearance based upon a sort criteria, wherein the sort criteria selects the items based upon those items which were most recently modified in some way;

displaying graphical previews for the selected items on the outer appearance of the container, wherein the graphical previews are not folders, and the graphical previews are generated by a thumbnail extractor based on extensions associated with the selected items; and

locating the graphical previews on the outer appearance in a desired location,

thereby enabling a computer user to more easily identify the contents of the container without opening the container.

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Claims 2-4 (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying step includes sizing the preview on the outer appearance.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying step further includes determining whether a graphical preview image has previously been generated and stored, and if so, displaying the previously generated preview.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preview is a thumbnail image of an item contained within the container.

8.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer readable~~ machine-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for displaying a collection of content items within a container, comprising:

   displaying a background appearance for the collection of content items;

   determining if any of the collection of content items can be graphically represented;

   if any of the collection of content items can be graphically represented, sorting the content items ~~the~~ that can be graphically represented based on a sort criteria and displaying on said background appearance graphical previews for the sorted content items that can be graphically represented, and

   displaying a textual message in addition to the background appearance and the graphical previews, without displaying the entire collection of content items.

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10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the container is a folder and the background appearance is that of a closed file folder.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the container is a folder and the background appearance is that of a photo-album.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said at least one graphical preview is a preview of an electronic picture contained within the folder.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

14.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer readable~~ machine-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 9.

15.   (Previously Presented) A computer system for displaying a collection of items on a display using a graphical operating environment, comprising:

an item collection manager for providing a collection of items within a container, the container having a background appearance; and

a container display provider for sorting the collection of items based on a sort criteria, displaying graphical previews of the sorted items on the background appearance of the container and for displaying a textual message in addition to the background appearance and the graphical previews, without displaying the entire collection of content items,

thereby enabling a computer user to more easily identify the contents of the container without opening the container.

16.   (Previously Presented)   A computer system for displaying a collection of content items on a display using a graphical operating environment, comprising:

   a background appearance rendering component for the collection of content items;

   a graphical preview rendering component for determining if any of the collection of content items can be graphically represented, for sorting the content items that can be graphically represented, rendering graphical previews, on the background appearance, of the sorted content items that can be graphically represented and for displaying a textual message in addition to the background appearance and the graphical previews, wherein the graphical previews are not folders, and the graphical previews are generated by a thumbnail extractor based on the extensions associated with the at least one of any of the collection of content items.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the graphical previews are pictorial representations of one or more images associated with the at least one item.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the graphical previews are pictorial representations of one or more images associated with the at least one of the content items.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 15, wherein the graphical previews are pictorial representations of one or more images associated with the at least one item.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 16, wherein the graphical previews are pictorial representations of one or more images associated with the at least one of any of the collection of content items.

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